GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
AGRICULTURE
LOK SABHA

STARRED QUESTION NO:347
ANSWERED ON:21.03.2001
POTATO PRODUCTION
VILAS BABURAO MUTTEMWAR

Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is unprecedented glut in potato production in various States particularly in Uttar Pradesh;

(b) if so, the details regarding estimated production of potato in Uttar Pradeshand other States and how does it compare with the production reported for earlier 2 years;

(c) whether the prices of potato have fallen to a record level resulting in tremendous loss to the potato growers; and

(d) if so, the corrective steps taken/proposed to be taken to protect the interests of potato growers in the country?

Answer

MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI NITISH KUMAR)

(a) to (d) : A statement is laid on the Table of the Sabha.

THE STATEMENT REFFERED TO IN REPLY TO PARTS (a) TO (d) OF LOK SABHA STARRED QUESTION NO. 347 DUE FOR REPLY ON 21.03.2001.

(a) & (b): There is no glut in potato production in the country as is evident from estimated production of potato which is less during the year than last year. The estimated production of potato in Uttar Pradesh and in other States for the last three years is given below:-

(Million tonnes)

Year	Total (All States)	Uttar Pradesh
1998-99	22.49	9.54
1999-2000	24.15	10.46
2000-2001 (Provisional)	21.99	8.50

(c): The prices of potato during the year 2000 remained subdued. The annual average of Wholesale Price Index(WPI) of potato at 81.5 registered a decline of 18.82 percent over the annual average of the previous year.

(d): Market Intervention Scheme is implemented for procurement of horticulturalitems of importance, when their prices tend to fall below economic levels on the formal request of concerned State Governments, if the State Government is willingto share 50% of the losses, if any, incurred in the procurement process. The proposal received from Government of Punjab, for implementation of Market Intervention Scheme for potato has been referred to Ministry of Finance forconcurrence. Additional information has been sought from State Government of Karnataka on the proposal sent by it for implementation of market intervention scheme for potato.